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LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 24 February 1998 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, Dr. Guido Di Tella, on the subject of the Secretary-General's recent mission to Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando PETRELLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 24 February 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to write to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council to express to you the profound satisfaction of the Argentine Government at the successful efforts made by the Secretary-General during your Presidency to bring about a solution to the crisis between Iraq and the United Nations.

For more than 20 years the Gulf region has been the scene of armed conflicts, with consequent sufferings for the peoples of the region. The international community has a moral obligation to put an end to this situation. In our view, only a just and lasting solution to the present crisis based on the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council can ensure political stability in Iraq and the well-being of all its inhabitants.

It is the hope of the Argentine Government that Iraq, on the basis of the agreement achieved by the Secretary-General will fully implement the Security Council resolutions and enable the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency to discharge to the full their respective mandates, in a context of full respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

We are also grateful for the determination shown by all members of the Security Council in the negotiation and adoption of resolution 1153 (1998), which will permit a temporary and partial alleviation of the humanitarian crisis being experienced by the Iraqi people. In this effort, we particularly value the determination and sensitivity shown by the Secretary-General in preparing the report on the basis of which that resolution was adopted.

The speed with which both the Secretary-General and the Security Council acted on this important humanitarian issue reaffirms the fundamental role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

We are convinced, moreover, that the agreement reached, good faith in its application and the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1153 (1998) will help lay solid foundations for a definitive mobilization of the economy of the region, which possesses the best possible human conditions for its progress and sustained development.

Argentina reiterates its commitment to contribute to all of the activities for which the Special Commission is responsible. This readiness extends to any initiative aimed at the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in a manner totally consistent with the measures adopted by the Government of Argentina in this respect since the beginning of this decade.